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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,164	10/26/2001	Michael S. Foster	030048042US	1616
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PERKINS COIE LLP			FOX, JAMAL A	
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P.O. BOX 1247			ART UNIT	
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247			PAPER NUMBER	
			2664	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,164

Applicant(s)

FOSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Jamal A. Fox

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26, 29-42, 45-52, 55 and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27, 28, 43, 44, 53, 54 and 56 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 56 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 56, line 1, after "claim", "56" needs to be changed. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-26, 29-42, 45-52, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Horst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,967).

Referring to claim 1, Horst et al. discloses a method for controlling access to a network, the method comprising:

for each node connected to the switch (Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.), receiving from a network manager (CPU, col. 6 lines 1-16) addresses to which the node is authorized to transmit a communication;

receiving (receives, col. 6 lines 1-16) a communication from a node, the communication having a destination address;

determining based on the received addresses whether the node that transmitted the communication is authorized (authorized, col. 6 lines 1-16) to transmit a communication to the destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16); and

when it is determined that the node is not authorized (unauthorized, col. 6 lines 9-13), suppressing (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16) the transmitting of the received communication through the network.

Referring to claim 2, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the address is a virtual address (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59).

Referring to claim 3, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the switch (see Figure 19A and respective portions of the spec.) has multiple ports, wherein each port is connected to a node, and wherein each port has access to the received address to which the connected-to node is authorized (authorized, col. 6 lines 1-16) to transmit a communication.

Referring to claim 4, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1, including storing the received addresses in a label table (table, col. 7 lines 30-52 and col. 13 lines 20-26) and col. with a port of the switch that is connected to the node.

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Referring to claim 5, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1, including notifying (notify, col. 6 lines 10-16) the network manager that the node is not authorized (unauthorized, col. 6 lines 9-13) to transmit received communications.

Referring to claim 6, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1, including indicating that the node is no longer authorized (authorized, col. 6 lines 1-16) to transmit any communication.

Referring to claim 7, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 6, wherein received addresses are stored (store, col. 29 lines 55-60) in association with the node and the indicating includes removing the association of an address with the node.

Referring to claim 8, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 6 wherein the indicating that the node is no longer authorized (unauthorized, col. 6 lines 9-13) to transmit to the address occurs in response to an indication from the network manager that the node is no longer authorized (unauthorized, col. 6 lines 9-13) to transmit to the address.

Referring to claim 9, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 6 wherein the indicating that the node is no longer authorized to transmit to the address occurs in response to expiration of a timeout period (timeout period, col. 28 line 65-col. 29 line 7).

Referring to claim 10, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 6 wherein the indicating that the node is no longer authorized to transmit to the address occurs in response to detecting a condition (condition, col. 6 lines 1-16) in a physical layer of a link between the switch and the node.

Referring to claim 11, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1 wherein an address is received from the network manager during registration (initialization, col. 65 lines 45-52) of the node.

Referring to claim 12, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1 including when it is determined that the node is authorized, transmitting the received communication to the destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 13, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the receiving includes receiving a filter parameter (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) that indicates valid data of a communication from the node.

Referring to claim 14, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 13, including when the received communication does not satisfy a filter parameter, discarding (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16) the received communication.

Referring to claim 15, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the filter parameter is priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6).

Referring to claim 16, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the filter parameter is class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60).

Referring to claim 17, Horst et al. discloses a method in a routing device for controlling access to a network, the method comprising:

receiving a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) for a node, the filter indicating a valid parameter for a communication transmitted by the node through the network;

receiving a communication from the node, the communication having a parameter (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6);

determining whether the parameter of the received communication is valid (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35) based on the received filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.); and

when it is determined that parameter of the received communication is not valid, suppressing (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16) the transmitting of the received communication.

Referring to claim 18, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the parameter is a virtual address (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59) and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates one or more virtual addresses (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59) that can be validly used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 19, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the parameter relates to priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) that can be validly used in a communication transmitted to by the node.

Referring to claim 20, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the parameter relates to class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) that can be validly used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 21, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the routing device (see Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.) has multiple ports, wherein each port is connected to a node, and wherein each port has access to a received filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) for the connected to node.

Referring to claim 22, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the received filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is associated with a destination address assigned to the node and wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is applied to communications transmitted by the node that have destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 23, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 including notifying a network manager when the transmitting of a communication is suppressed (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16).

Referring to claim 24, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is received from a network manager.

Referring to claim 25, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is received from the network manager based on registration (initialization, col. 65 lines 45-52) of the node.

Referring to claim 26, Horst et al. discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the routing device is a switch (Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.).

Referring to claim 29, Horst et al. discloses a routing device for controlling access to a network, comprising:

a component having a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) for a node, the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicating valid parameters for communications transmitted by the node through the network;

a component that receives communications from the node, the communications having parameters (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6);

a component that applies the filter to the communications to determining whether the parameters of the received communications are valid (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35); and

a component that discards (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16) a received communication when it is determined that a parameter of the received communication is not valid.

Referring to claim 30, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein a parameter is a virtual address (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59) and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates one or more virtual address (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59) that can be validly (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35) used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 31, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein a parameter relates to priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45

line 6) that can be validly (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35) used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 32, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein a parameter relates to class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) that can be validly (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35) used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 33, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein the routing device (see Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.) has multiple ports connected to nodes and wherein each port has access to a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) for the connected to node.

Referring to claim 34, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is associated with a destination address assigned to the node and wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is applied to communications transmitted by the node that have that destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 35, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 including notifying a network manager (CPU, col. 6 lines 1-16) when a communication is discarded (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16).

Referring to claim 36, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is received from a network manager (CPU, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 37, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 36 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is received from the network manager (CPU, col. 6 lines 1-16) during registration (initialization, col. 65 lines 45-52) of the node.

Referring to claim 38, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 including a component that indicates that the node is not allowed to transmit any communications when it is determined that the parameter (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59; priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of a received communication is not valid.

Referring to claim 39, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 including when it is determined that the parameter (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59; priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of the received communication is not valid, indicating that the node is not allowed to transmit communications to a destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16) associated with the received communication.

Referring to claim 40, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 including a component that transmits a received communication when it is determined that the parameters (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59; priority,

col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of the received communication are valid (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35).

Referring to claim 41, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29 including a component that modifies the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) so that the modified filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is applied to subsequent communications received from the node.

Referring to claim 42, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 29, wherein the routing device is a switch (Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.).

Referring to claim 45, Horst et al. discloses a routing device for controlling access to a network, comprising:

means for applying a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) to communications received from a node to determining whether parameters of the communications are valid (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35);

and

means for discarding (discard, col. 6 lines 10-16) a communication when it is determined that a parameter of the communication is not valid.

Referring to claim 46, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 35 wherein a parameter is a virtual address (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59) and the filter indicates one or more virtual addresses that can be validly used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 47, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 wherein a parameter relates to priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a priority (priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) that can be validly (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35) used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 48, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 wherein a parameter relates to class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) of a communication and the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) indicates a class of service (class, col. 39 lines 58-60) that can be validly used in a communication transmitted by the node.

Referring to claim 49, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 wherein the routing device (see Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.) has multiple ports connected to nodes and wherein each port has access to a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) for the connected-to node.

Referring to claim 50, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is associated with a destination address assigned to the node and wherein the means for applying the filter applies it to communications transmitted by the node that have that destination address (destination address, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 51, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 including a component that transmits a received communication when it is determined

that the parameters (virtual address, col. 18 lines 65-67 and col. 20 lines 55-59; priority, col. 44 lines 10-15 and col. 44 line 59-col. 45 line 6) of the received communication are valid (validation, col. 17 line 53 – col. 18 line 10 and validate, col. 18 lines 30-35).

Referring to claim 52, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 wherein the routing device is a switch (Fig. 19A and respective portions of the spec.).

Referring to claim 55, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 45 includes means for receiving a filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) from a network manager (CPU, col. 6 lines 1-16).

Referring to claim 56, Horst et al. discloses the routing device of claim 56 wherein the filter (header, Fig. 3B and respective portions of the spec.) is received during registration (initialization, col. 65 lines 45-52) of the node.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 17, 29 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hemmady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,872,160).

Referring to claim 1, Hemmady et al. discloses a method in a switch for controlling access to a network, the method comprising:

for each node connected to the switch, receiving from a network manager addresses to which the node is authorized (authorized, col. 57 lines 15-35, col. 66 lines 1-40 and col. 67 lines 15-20) and to transmit a communication;

receiving a communication from a node, the communication having a destination address (destination address, col. 14 lines 15-20, col. 34 lines 10-15, col. 59 lines 30-35, col. 60 lines 15-20 and col. 63 lines 45-60);

determining base on the received addresses whether the node that transmitted the communication is authorized (authorized, col. 57 lines 15-35, col. 66 lines 1-40 and col. 67 lines 15-20) to transmit a communication to the destination address (destination address, col. 14 lines 15-20, col. 34 lines 10-15, col. 59 lines 30-35, col. 60 lines 15-20 and col. 63 lines 45-60); and

when it is determined that the node is not authorized (unauthorized, col. 9 lines 25-30, col. 47 lines 40-50, col. 48 lines 10-15 and col. 65 lines 1-10), suppressing (discard, col. 16 lines 36-46, col. 16 line 64-68, col. 17 lines 48-68 and col. 41 lines 25-30) the transmitting of the received communication through the network.

Referring to claim 17, Hemmady et al. discloses a method in a routing device for controlling access to a network, the method comprising:

receiving a filter (header, col. 16 lines 36-46 and col. 41 lines 21-30) for a node, the filter indicating a valid parameter for a communication transmitted by the node through the network.

receiving a communication from the node, the communication having a parameter (virtual address, col. 54 lines 50-65 and col. 55 lines 10-20; priority, col. 3 lines 1-6, col. 6 lines 25-30, col. 8 lines 15-20, col. 26 lines 50-68, col. 27 lines 1-5, col. 27 lines 20-50, col. 28 lines 9-55, col. 30 lines 30-35, col. 40 lines 40-50, col. 46 lines 5-40, col. 58 lines 5-10, col. 69 lines 14-21; class of service, col. 60 lines 19-26);

determining whether the parameter (virtual address, col. 54 lines 50-65 and col. 55 lines 10-20; priority, col. 3 lines 1-6, col. 6 lines 25-30, col. 8 lines 15-20, col. 26 lines 50-68, col. 27 lines 1-5, col. 27 lines 20-50, col. 28 lines 9-55, col. 30 lines 30-35, col. 40 lines 40-50, col. 46 lines 5-40, col. 58 lines 5-10, col. 69 lines 14-21; class of service, col. 60 lines 19-26) of the received communication is valid based on the received filter; and

when it is determined that parameter of the received communication is not valid, suppressing (discard, col. 16 lines 36-46, col. 16 line 64-68, col. 17 lines 48-68 and col. 41 lines 25-30) the transmitting of the received communication.

Referring to claim 29, Hemmady et al. discloses a routing device for controlling access to a network, comprising:

a component having a filter (header, col. 16 lines 36-46 and col. 41 lines 21-30) for a node, the filter indicating valid parameters (virtual address, col. 54 lines 50-65 and col. 55 lines 10-20; priority, col. 3 lines 1-6, col. 6 lines 25-30, col. 8 lines 15-20, col. 26 lines 50-68, col. 27 lines 1-5, col. 27 lines 20-50, col. 28 lines 9-55, col. 30 lines 30-35, col. 40 lines 40-50, col. 46 lines 5-40, col. 58 lines 5-10, col. 69 lines 14-21; class of service, col. 60 lines 19-26) for communications transmitted by the node through the network;

a component that receives communications from the node, the communications having parameters (virtual address, col. 54 lines 50-65 and col. 55 lines 10-20; priority, col. 3 lines 1-6, col. 6 lines 25-30, col. 8 lines 15-20, col. 26 lines 50-68, col. 27 lines 1-

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5, col. 27 lines 20-50, col. 28 lines 9-55, col. 30 lines 30-35, col. 40 lines 40-50, col. 46 lines 5-40, col. 58 lines 5-10, col. 69 lines 14-21; class of service, col. 60 lines 19-26);

a component that applies the filter to the communications to determining whether the parameters (virtual address, col. 54 lines 50-65 and col. 55 lines 10-20; priority, col. 3 lines 1-6, col. 6 lines 25-30, col. 8 lines 15-20, col. 26 lines 50-68, col. 27 lines 1-5, col. 27 lines 20-50, col. 28 lines 9-55, col. 30 lines 30-35, col. 40 lines 40-50, col. 46 lines 5-40, col. 58 lines 5-10, col. 69 lines 14-21; class of service, col. 60 lines 19-26) of the received communications are valid;

and

a component that discards (discard, col. 16 lines 36-46, col. 16 line 64-68, col. 17 lines 48-68 and col. 41 lines 25-30) a received communication when it is determined that a parameter of the received communication is not valid.

Referring to claim 45, Hemmady et al. discloses a routing device for controlling access to a network, comprising:

means for applying a filter (header, col. 16 lines 36-46 and col. 41 lines 21-30) to communications received from a node to determining whether parameters of the communications are valid, and

means for discarding (discard, col. 16 lines 36-46, col. 16 line 64-68, col. 17 lines 48-68 and col. 41 lines 25-30) a communication when it is determined that a parameter of the communication is not valid.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 27, 28, 43, 44, 53 and 54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamal A. Fox whose telephone number is (571) 272-3143. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to 2600 Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.



Jamal A. Fox

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Chin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WELLINGTON CHIN
VISORY PATENT EXAMINER